

Céad míle fáilte roim ár
sCáirde ar Cuairt go
h-Eirinn.

plé ar ron na
poblacht

(THE CASE FOR THE REPUBLIC.)

Visitors
cordially welcomed
at
SINN FEIN
HEADQUARTERS
23 Suffolk Street.

Deiré fáilte
roim lucht ar
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ENQUIRIES INVITED.

DA
963
P54
1923
IRISH
C.2

plé an ron na poblácta. (THE CASE FOR THE REPUBLIC.)

THE CONTINUITY OF THE STRUGGLE.

The Irish struggle for freedom has been continuous since the English first set foot in Ireland. From 1798 to 1919 the aim of the fight was—following the democratic example of America and France—to establish an Irish Republic. In 1919 the Republic was set up by the Free Vote of the people, and a Republican Government created. Since 1919 our efforts have been to maintain that Republic and to secure its international recognition.

THE REPUBLIC WAS NOT A BLUFF.

Some unworthy Irishmen now declare that the Republic was only a gigantic bluff. It WAS NOT. It was a living reality in the minds and hearts of our people. Men gave their lives on the scaffold and before the firing squad rather than deny their allegiance to the Republic. MEN DO NOT DIE FOR A BLUFF.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ENGLAND DID NOT MEAN SURRENDER.

When sending Delegates to London to negotiate with the British, Dail Eireann stated:—

“This Country has declared its independence and recognises itself as a Sovereign State. It is only as the Representatives of that State and its chosen guardians that we have any power to negotiate on behalf of our people.”

On reading that message, Mr. Lloyd George declared that there could be no negotiations unless that sentence was withdrawn. It was not withdrawn, and our Delegates entered the Conference without prejudice to the position of either side.

THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY—TREACHERY.

THE DELEGATES sent to London disobeyed their instructions. On December 3rd, 1921, they WERE ORDERED by their Cabinet to break off negotiations with the British, AND DEFINITELY TO REFUSE ALLEGIANCE TO THE CROWN AND PARTITION of the Country.

They yielded, however, to the threat of “immediate and terrible war,” a threat made by the hypocritical English statesmen who

had told the World that England was fighting for the freedom of Small Nations—for the rights of democracy—for Civilisation itself.

THE SPLIT.

"If you sign for the King," said Cathal Brugha to Arthur Griffith, on December 3rd, 1921, "you split Ireland from top to bottom." Arthur Griffith promised he would not sign. He went back to break—instead he signed. He and those with him "split Ireland from top to bottom."

WHO SUPPORTED THE TREATY?

Ireland was divided. On the one side stood those who had always yielded to England a willing allegiance—the Unionists, the Freemasons—all England's faithful garrison in Ireland. There were, too, those to whom the Republic was a "gigantic bluff"; those who were concerned with material things only, and looked to the Treaty to secure them. There were the young men whose personal devotion to a leader made them follow him blindly; there were the "Peace-at-any-price" people, who, caring not for honour, and, ignorant of their country's history, failed to see that a dishonourable agreement could not last. And there were the timid souls, weary after the long hard struggle, fearful of its renewal and ready to follow any leader who promised them a rest.

WHO OPPOSED THE TREATY?

On the other side, against the Treaty, stood those WHO BELIEVED, and STILL BELIEVE in the Republic, and who were and are prepared to suffer for their faith. They refused to give the British Monarch a democratic title in Ireland. They are citizens "of one allegiance only." Once more the people are realising that the Republicans are the real custodians of the Nation's security—political and financial—as well as of the Nation's honour, and this realisation is speeding the day when Ireland, true to herself, will dare to be free.

"THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE."

The will of the people is claimed as a justification for British rule in Ireland to-day. The real will of the Irish people is for Freedom, whatever they may say or do under duress, and such forced expressions have no moral or legal validity.

The Sovereignty of a Nation is inalienable—one of the funda-

mental things which no majority can surrender. To deny that would be the greatest crime against democracy that a people could commit.

EFFORTS FOR PEACE—THE PACT.

From January to June, 1922, the Republican leaders did everything—short of surrendering the honour of the Nation—to avert the fratricidal strife that was threatening. They joyfully agreed to the Pact of Peace on May 20th, 1922, and if that Pact had been kept all the horrors of the succeeding eighteen months would have been averted.

THE CIVIL WAR AND THE DESTRUCTION.

The last phase of the War in Ireland cannot be rightly called Civil War, because it was fought by England's orders and with English guns against the will of all the Irish people—except England's tools.

The Army of the Republic, when attacked, defended itself and the Republic as in duty bound. The Free State authorities claim that the destruction caused since June, 1922, amounts to £50,000,000. Whether it is that amount or less, **THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY**—for the material loss—for the loss of life—for the moral deterioration of a section of our people—RESTS ON THOSE WHO SIGNED AND VOTED FOR THE TREATY OF SURRENDER.

ALIEN RULE.

British authority rules the "Free" State. The "Glorified Clerks" who form its Executive are dominated by the British permanent official. Hence high salaries for the few, and penalising of the aged poor and the blind. Unemployment a scandal, while His Majesty's Irish Ministers squabble over the spoils of office.

THE FUTURE.

But there is no need to be despondent. Though terrible things have happened in Ireland, the future is bright for the Republic. England is gradually grasping the lesson that injustice and double dealing WILL NOT PAY, and, much as she may regret it, the policy of Cromwell can no longer succeed. Soon the Government of the Republic will be functioning fully and in Peace in a United Ireland, and our long night of sorrow will give place to the dawn of a Glorious Freedom.